

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Claims 1-5 (Cancelled)

6. (Previously Presented) A database access method within a database proxy driver, the method comprising:

receiving a database connectivity request, from a database driven application, through a corresponding second exposed interface;

forwarding said database connectivity request, to an universal database connectivity driver, through a corresponding first exposed interface which matches a prototype of said second exposed interface; and,

performing at least one auxiliary task in addition to forwarding said database connectivity request.

7. (Original) The database access method of claim 6, further comprising performing each of the receiving, forwarding and performing steps in an edge device.

8. (Original) The database access method of claim 7, wherein said performing step comprises performing a load balancing task.

9. (Original) The database access method of claim 7, wherein said performing step comprises performing a database caching task.

10. (Original) The database access method of claim 6, further comprising:  
collecting meta-data for each received database connectivity request; and,  
modifying operation of said auxiliary task based upon an analysis of said collected meta-data.

11. (Original) The database access method of claim 10, wherein said modifying step comprises generating rules which direct database connectivity requests to particular instances of a database server which are most likely to respond quickly based upon database latency patterns inherent in said collected meta-data.

12. (Original) The database access method of claim 11, wherein said modifying step comprises selectively caching result sets in a database cache based upon request frequency patterns inherent in said collected meta-data.

Claims 13-19 (Cancelled)